

WOMBWELL  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



REPORT  
OF  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
FOR THE  
YEAR 1895.



WOMBWELL:  
PRINTED BY THOMAS THORNSBY GEORGE STREET.

1896.



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JANUARY 20th, 1896.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE WOMBWELL  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I estimate our population in the middle of 1895 to be 12,213. This estimation is based on Census data alone, and the annual ~~dates~~ rates in the appended table are calculated from it. At the present time however there are 2,279 houses occupied in the Township, and given an average of 6 per house, the population is about 13,500.

The closing of Lundhill Colliery may have affected the decrease slightly, but on the other hand, the making of the New Railway has given a temporary increase of 150. The extension of the Township is almost wholly in Wombwell proper, 83 houses having been erected there, 5 in Flemingfield and none in Jump. At the close of the year plans had been passed for the erection of additional houses numbering 83 in Wombwell, 2 in Flemingfield, but none in Jump. An improvement has been instituted by a resolution of the Council, "that all party walls should be not less than 9 inches thick,—to take effect after Jan. 1st, 1896.

The excess of births over deaths in 1895 is 316—in 1894 it was 309. There were registered 561 births (293 male and 268 female.) This gives a rate of 45·9 per 1000 for the year. The deaths were 245, (119 male and 126 female) the annual rate being 20 per 1000 persons living. Both rates are higher than those of 1894. The latter is accounted for by the greater infantile mortality (188 per 1000 children born), caused by the severe epidemic of Diarrhœa in the Autumn. Premature births, and the death of children living but a few hours, also contribute considerably to this deathrate.

Improvements in the methods of scavenging have been freely discussed by the Council. It was strongly argued that ALL ashpits and privies should be emptied through the

night, but where men "work shifts" and consequently return home at different hours, it becomes difficult to say what times are most suitable. It was resolved however that the older districts, having the most confined spaces, should be more particularly attended to in the early morning hours. In addition I should advise that deodorants should be more plentifully used, and that "Green Copperas" is a likely one available for that purpose. I think the time has come when you should encourage "water carriage" as much as possible. I have been informed that 11 waste-water closets have recently been put up in connection with new premises, and that they answer admirably.

I am pleased to record the near approach of the completion of your Sewage extension scheme. The "old Local Board" before its abolition had contracted for the purchase of land for treating the sewage of New Wombwell District, or the leasing of land adjoining the present Sewage Farm, in order to more effectually treat the sewage of Wombwell proper, Mitchell's Terrace and Broomhill districts; and for leasing land at Beech House farm to deal with the sewage of Hemingfield, Lundhill, and Wombwell Main. The latter ground was intended for Jump also, but the Hoyland Nether scheme, and the making of the Midland Railway presented difficulties which were finally overcome at the Government inquiry at Hoyland, when it was pointed out that as Hoyland proposed to treat their sewage in Wombwell, they must include Jump in their scheme, on terms to be agreed upon.

The new District Council confirmed the action of the Local Board, and appointed a committee to report on the best means of disposing the sewage, and there could have been no plan adopted, better fitted for the circumstances of the district, than that determined on viz. Precipitation supplemented by Filtration. Arrangements have now been made to pass under the canal where necessary and plans and sections are ready for submission to the Local Government Board as soon as the Jump arrangements can be completed.



I trust you will perceive the necessity of attending as early as possible to the Broomhill and New Wombwell districts. The latter is the most urgent. In June last I described to you its insanitary condition, and my apprehension of an outbreak of Typhoid Fever. I must compliment you on the steps you took to avoid this, and the good results obtained, but I must remind you the remedy was but partial and temporary, and I therefore call your attention to it again.

The markets have been regularly inspected, but there has been no necessity this year to seize any food.

The Canal Boats passing thro' have increased in number. None have been registered in 1895, but 112 have been inspected and found to meet the requirements of the Canal Boats Act.

In the month of September fears were entertained regarding the quality of water in the Hemingfield Reservoir, I procured three samples of this, and having subjected them to a Qualitative Analysis, I was enabled to state that they were good drinking water, and I pointed out that this district was then singularly free from disease. The Reservoir is supplied by a natural spring rising under grassland and conveyed thither by pipes, and it is supplemented by the Dearne Valley Water when necessary. Jump Reservoir is supplied from a drift or adit which has its origin near to Hoyland Road, and at that point is 12 yards deep. A small supply is also obtained from what is called "Middle Spring", but it is not reliable, being dry in summer. Jump Reservoir, like Hemingfield is supplemented by Dearne Valley Water. To satisfy any doubts that may be in the public mind, I have had samples taken from every source, and sent to our Public Analyst. His opinion of both Jump and Hemingfield waters are thus summed up:—

"The results are very satisfactory. They negative any suspicion of contamination by drainage or similar impurity, and show the water to be fairly free from readily changeable

organic matter. The water has about the same hardness as the Metropolitan supply derived from the Thames, and is well fitted for drinking and general domestic use".

Mr. Allens' opinion of the Dearne Valley Company's water, obtained from Oak's Rock, is:—"The water is very hard, but in other respects well suited for drinking and general domestic use".

An important extension of the water supply is that to Wombwell Main Co's. houses. Hitherto the Company have supplied these houses from a reservoir of their own. Water will now be placed on every sink, in upwards of 100 houses.

**TYPHOID FEVER:**—There were 11 cases of this disease recorded. Six were taken to the Hospital where two died, whilst 3 died at home. When investigating the origin of attack, I was convinced that 4 of the cases arose partly from want of personal cleanliness, and the existence of other hygienic defects. I think dirtier houses could not have been found in the district, and they had to be thoroughly cleansed by your officials. On the other hand there is no doubt that 3 cases were caused by the close proximity of the privy and midden accommodation, and the pollution of the surrounding soil. I pointed this out to you at the time, I trust you will see to the remedy. Comparison with former years is in favour of THIS. In 1894 there occurred 15 cases, whilst in 1893 there were 52. That there has been no epidemic this year is shewn by the times of attack:—

Jan.	Feb.	Apl.	May.	June.	July.	Sept.	Oct.
1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3

**MEASLES:**—from March to July this disease was prevalent and 6 deaths resulted from complications. I did not recommend it as desirable to close schools.

**SCARLET FEVER:**—The year 1894 was a "Scarlet Fever" year, but 1895 was more so, the incidence of attack being heaviest in June, July and August. In 1894 there were 94 cases, and in 1895, 116 cases. The same erratic course



was pursued by it—disappearing entirely from one district to appear in another. The same mildness of type was observed, and hence the same difficulty in contending with it; desquamation often going on unknown. To close the schools therefore was of no use; besides children on the boundaries of our district, attend in considerable numbers the schools in districts not under our control. Fortunately there were only 5 fatal cases.

Diarrhœa was Epidemic during Aug. Sept. and Oct. It proved fatal to 34 infants and 2 adults. Hence our higher Zymotic rate (see table).

Comparison of Annual Rate per 1000 of estimated Population,  
Years 1894—95.

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate	Zymotic Death Rate.	Phthisis Death Rate	Respiration Death Rate.
1894.	38.9	13.8	1.9	1.3	4.4
1895.	45.9	20.	4.7	1.31	2.8

The following notifications were received during 1895.

*Wombwell proper. Hemingfield. Jump.*

Erysipelas .....	9	.....	0	.....	0
Scarlet Fever.....	106	.....	1	.....	9
Typhoid Fever...	11	.....	0	.....	0
Puerpural Fever	2	.....	0	.....	0
Diphtheria .....	3	.....	0	.....	0

No Smallpox recorded.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

**JOHN N. MILLAR,**

Medical Officer of Health.

# WOMBWELL URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES at subjoined ages.						MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES.																						
Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 60.	60 and up- wards	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Croup (not Spasmodic).	Whooping Cough.	Continued Fevers.			Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Cholera.	Rheumatic Fever	Erysipelas.	Pyæmia.	Puerperal Fever.	Ague.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	Epidemic Diseases Influenza.	
106	47	10	15	39	28	0	6	5	0	1	3	0	5	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	16	35	11	7	0	4

AREA (Acres).	Estimated Population, Middle of 1895.	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.			ANNUAL RATE PER 1000.					INFANT MORTALITY. Deaths under one year per 1000 Births	
		Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.	Phthisis Death Rate.	Respiratory Death Rate.	188.	
3,851	12,213	293	268	561	119	126	245	45.9	20	4.7	1.31	2.8		



